

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00193 230952Z

60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGR-10 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 OES-05

FEA-01 INT-05 /119 W

----- 120181

R 230824Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5987

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0193

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, LA

SUBJECT: CREATION OF JOINT STATE-PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

REF: VIENTIANE 0116 (150905Z JAN 76)

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 22, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS HIMMAKONE MANOTHAM TOLD NEWSMEN THAT JOINT STATE-PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY WOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS THAT DAY. IT WAS ESTABLISHED JANUARY 16. COMPANY, HE SAID, WOULD START OUT BY OPERATING PASSENGER BUSES IN VIENTIANE BUT WAS EXPECTED TO EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS TO THE PROVINCES. AT SAME TIME, DIRECTOR GENERAL ANNOUNCED THAT VIENTIANE BUS FARE WOULD RISE FROM 50 TO 70 KIP PER RIDE BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICE OF GASOLINE.

2. TRANSPORTATION COMPANY THUS JOINS SENG FAH (METAL UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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SHEETING) COMPANY -- 75 VIENTIANE 6271, NOTAL -- AND PEPSI-COLA LICENSEE POUN SOUK COMPANY -- VIENTIANE 0110,

NOTAL -- AS JOINT STATE-PRIVATE ENTERPRISES. GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN BOTH SENG FAH AND NEW TRANSPORTATION COMPANY IS 51 PER CENT. STATE SHARE IN POUN SOUK CO. HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT IS PROBABLY ALSO CONTROLLING.

3. COMMENT: RESTORATION OF HIGHLY POPULAR LOW-COST BUS SERVICE, WHICH TOOK PLACE WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS, REFLECTS RETURN OF POL SUPPLY SITUATION TO NEAR-NORMAL, WITH SIGNIFICANT NEW FACTOR OF RATIONING FOR PRIVATE USERS (REFTEL). SO ALSO DOES JANUARY 22 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FOR "SECOND SALE" OF GASOLINE TO PRIVATE USERS THE RATIONS WILL BE DOUBLED, TO 10 LITERS FOR MOTORCYCLES AND 20 LITERS FOR AUTOMOBILES.
TEARE

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